

Comma Packet

Exercise 1: If the following sentences are correctly punctuated with introductory commas, mark a C on the line to the left of the sentence. If there is an error, put an X on the line and circle the error.

- ____ 1. As the boat turned about a dozen dolphins began to follow it.
- ____ 2. Since we moved into town, our fuel bill has tripled.
- ____ 3. Having chosen nursing as a career Susan enrolled in many science courses.
- ____ 4. Usually, I have time to eat breakfast.
- ____ 5. From outside the twelve-mile fishing limits off the coast of Maine, a strange phenomenon has been reported.
- ____ 6. When he was in high school he was known only as an athlete.
- ____ 7. Before you decide what courses to take, you should consider the amount of work you are willing to do.
- ____ 8. Nevertheless I do not want to meet him.

Exercise 2. Add introductory commas where they are needed in the following sentences. Can you identify whether the introductory element, if any, is a clause, phrase, or word? If it is a phrase, what kind of phrase is it?

- ____ 1. To give Jane a good look at the university Mr. Benson drove up for the Day on Campus.
- ____ 2. Since the dog had started to run a way to catch him had to be found.
- ____ 3. Of course the movie that I had rushed to see didn't start on time.
- ____ 4. Her secondhand car was in excellent condition when she bought it.
- ____ 5. As I mentioned the rules can be broken occasionally.
- ____ 6. Having decided to eat only natural foods he had to give up all of his favorite junk food snacks.
- ____ 7. To estimate the costs he consulted a repairman by phone.
- ____ 8. To succeed in politics is not necessarily desirable.
- ____ 9. Making up his mind quickly Jared ordered lasagna while we were still reading the menu.
- ____ 10. However he tried to use the bottle opener it wouldn't work.

Exercise 3: Essential and non-essential clauses. Are the essential and nonessential elements in the following sentences punctuated correctly? If they are correct, write a C on the line to the left. If they are incorrect, put an X on the line. Do you know why the punctuation is correct or incorrect?

_____ 1. The woman who did not attend the meeting said that she had to study for her chemistry exam.

_____ 2. He did not however intend to return the money he borrowed.

_____ 3. West Point cadets, who break the honor code, are expelled.

_____ 4. She was as a matter of fact chiefly interested in becoming a Hollywood celebrity.

_____ 5. Raul's wife, Conchita, is president of the local Red Cross.

_____ 6. The German writer, Hermann Hesse, is a favorite with American college students.

_____ 7. The courthouse which was renovated recently was built in 1878.

_____ 8. Saul having forgotten to save his work lost all of his revisions when his computer crashed.

_____ 9. St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, wrote his handbook of spiritual exercises in the sixteenth century.

_____ 10. The book, that your sister gave you for your birthday, won a National Book Award.

Exercise 4: Commas in a series and with adjectives.

Add commas as needed in the sentences below. If the sentence is correct as it is, write C on the line and refer to the appropriate rule in parentheses after the sentence.

_____ He left the scene of the accident and tried to forget that it had happened.

_____ Oil which is lighter than water rises to the surface.

_____ Madame de Stael was an attractive gracious lady.

_____ Nice is a word with many meanings and some of them are contradictory.

_____ The contractor testified that the house was completed and that the work had been done properly.

_____ Some people refuse to go to the zoo because of pity for creatures that must live in small cages.

_____ Taxicabs that are dirty are illegal in some cities.

_____ The closet contained worn clothes old shoes and dirty hats.

_____ The uninvited guest wore a dark blue tweed suit.

_____ After surviving this ordeal the trapper felt relieved.

_____ Mark Twain's early novels I believe stand the test of time.

_____ December 7 1941 will never be forgotten.

_____ The field was safe enough wasn't it?

_____ Write the editor of the Atlantic 8 Arlington Street Boston Massachusetts 02116.

_____ He replied "I have no idea what you mean."

_____ After a good washing and grooming the pup looked like a new dog.

_____ Because of their opposition to institutions that force creatures to live in captivity some people refuse to go to the zoo.

_____ Men who are bald are frequently the ones who are the most authoritative on the subject of baldness.

_____ Vests which were once popular have been out of vogue for several years.

Exercise 5: Comma Review

Directions: Put in commas wherever they are needed in the following sentences.

1. There was no question that John's painting a huge colorful and ugly mural was the worst entry in the art exhibit.
2. Werner von Braun Willy Ley and Edward Teller noted authorities in the field of rocket development have done much to guide the missile program of the United States.
3. Mr. Cready's ability to say the wrong thing at the wrong time is I believe amazing.

4. Running around the house the dog was abruptly stopped by a fence.
5. If the opposition should win our candidate would never have any political future.
6. Gracefully lightly and daintily the ballerina moved across the stage.
7. Glamour the woman's fashion magazine recently incorporated with Charm another fashion journal.
8. Joe was born on May 7 1955 and his best friend was born exactly two months later on July 7 1955.
9. Mr. and Mrs. Kwon my parents' best friends sat in front of us at the football game.
10. November 11 1918 the armistice ending World War I was signed.

Commas: Exercise #6

Directions: Put in commas wherever they are needed in the following sentences.

1. The problems involved in this operation are I think numerous.
2. Celene who does not usually tell anyone what she feels said she didn't want to go to the dance.
3. To get tickets for some Broadway musicals one has to order three months in advance.
4. Listening to the radio Jun heard an announcement that Spangler his own dog was lost.
5. I used to live at 16689 Sutton Avenue Milpitas California but we have since moved to 1895 Holland Way Dubuque Iowa.
6. The Valley of the Moon the name of a section in Napa County California is the heart of the state's wine producing area.
7. Chris did not see how he could organize write and proofread this paper in only two hours.
8. By the pilings of the old pier I found four starfish a clam and a sea anemone.
9. Yes Helen did mention that all three of you were coming for lunch.
10. I believe therefore that fraternities are good influences on a college campus.

Commas: Exercise #7

Directions: Put in commas wherever they are needed in the following sentences.

1. The girl with the bright friendly smile wore a bright green scarf to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
2. As he read the Chekhov story he became aware of the Russian's genius.
3. Dauphin Island located off the coast of Alabama is a favorite spot for fishing.
4. She was as a matter of fact mainly interested in showing off her vocabulary.
5. I often go to the seashore and collect rocks there.
6. Before reaching the summit the climbers were forced by a storm to turn back.
7. Did you know that James Agee the novelist and poet was also a film critic?
8. Lady Jane Grey was the queen of England from July 10 1553 to July 19 1553.
9. Joseph registered for English 101 History 204 and Biology 106.
10. After discussing "Rain" we agreed that Somerset Maugham could really tell a good story.
11. Squaw Valley California the scene of the winter Olympics in 1960 is a ski resort.
12. Tomorrow I believe is the last day to register to vote in the November general election.
13. To perform well on Saturday afternoon the athlete must train every day of the week.
14. Understanding history increases your understanding of today's world.
- 15 Meg Fischer my cousin hopes to graduate from law school in two years.
16. He reads everything: road maps want ads and cereal boxes.
17. Having cut the roses she decided to bring them to her friend in the hospital.
18. "When" Jaime asked "will you return my book?"

Commas: Exercise #8

1. We went to Bar Harbor but did not take the ferry to Nova Scotia.
2. The ginkgo tree whose leaves turn bright yellow in the fall came to this country from Asia.
3. The address for the governor's mansion is 391 West Ferry Road Atlanta Georgia.
4. The villagers enjoyed fairs festivals and good conversation.
5. When the intermission was over the members of the audience moved back to their seats.
6. Andy took the elevator to the third floor rushed into the office and asked to see his father.
7. When he stumbled over your feet William was clumsy not rude.
8. She listened to her favorite record with close careful attention.
9. Jillian who had worked in the dress shop all summer hoped to work there again during the Christmas holidays.
10. Go the first traffic light turn left and then look for a yellow brick building on the north side of the street.
11. Once she has graduated I do not know where she is going or what she is planning to do.
12. "Oh no" Max exclaimed "I think that Dr. Holmes was referring to Eliot the novelist not Eliot the poet."
13. Below the fields stretched out in a hundred shades of green.
14. To understand the purpose of the course the student needs to read the syllabus.
15. All students are eligible to receive tickets but must go to the athletic office to pick them up.

Comma Splices and Fused Sentences – Exercise 1

This handout accompanies Exercise 1 of **Grammar Bytes!** Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address:
<http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Determine whether the items below are *comma splices* or *fused sentences*.

1. Julie is a real hypochondriac when her stomach hurts, she is certain that she has a bleeding ulcer, and if she has a backache, she believes that she has cancer of the spine.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

2. My cat Buster loves to nap on warm appliances when he sleeps on top of the television, his tail swipes the screen like a windshield wiper.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

3. During English class, Anthony kept flirting with RaShaunda because his behavior was keeping Shenicka from understanding the lecture, Shenicka whacked him over the head with her heavy dictionary.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

4. In preparation for the quiz, La'Mia studied comma splices and fused sentences until she thought her brain would burst, finally, she put away her notes, convinced that she would remember the rules even on her death bed.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

5. At the back of the classroom, Nina sat with her arms crossed, glaring at her teacher, Mr. Beane, her body language indicated that English was her least favorite subject.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

6. When Matt shaved his head, his mother worried that he had joined a cult the real reason for the bald head, however, was that Matt could get more attention and sympathy from girls who thought he was sick with a dread disease.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

7. Mike loves to play computer games, especially *Tomb Raider*, he imagines that all of the villains are his problems, and he gets great satisfaction blasting them to bits.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

8. Cindy's mumbling often gets her in trouble just the other day, in fact, her stylist misunderstood Cindy's instructions and dyed her hair blue after Cindy asked him to trim the ends.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

9. Clyde knew that he should be saving money for next semester's tuition he spent every paycheck, however, on gold jewelry and expensive dinners for his greedy girlfriend Gloria.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

10. At the campus coffee cart, Gini makes the best drinks her sweet cream latte, a blend of vanilla ice cream and espresso, will put on the pounds, but its cool, smooth taste is worth a trip to the gym.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

11. Josie, Don's Cairn terrier, will bark at anything that moves, squirrels, wind blown leaves, passing cars, and her own shadow will start her yapping.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

12. Because his glasses were so thick, Quincy refused to get contacts, he worried that equally thick contact lenses would make him look like a bug-eyed space alien.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

13. Madison believed that the best job in the universe would be to work as a crew member on the star ship *Enterprise* since this job existed only on television, Madison settled for clerking at a neighborhood comic book store that sold *Star Trek* memorabilia.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

14. Michelle is terrified of spiders, so when she found one in the bathroom, she panicked, refusing to shower for three days to use the restroom, she drove to her neighborhood gas station.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

15. When Jim threw his back out while helping his wife Nancy move the sofa, he feared the treatment the doctor would recommend, a week's worth of bed rest during the nicest week in April would certainly wreck Jim's golf plans.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

16. Sima was so sleepy after her marathon studying session for calculus that she ordered a triple espresso before going to class once the caffeine kicked in, Sima knew that she wouldn't doze off on Dr. Ribley.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

17. Rachel painstakingly ironed her linen shirt all the while, she was thinking how pointless this chore was since linen begins to wrinkle the moment after the last button is fastened.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

18. Jeremiah likes to put peanut butter on his pancakes instead of syrup, the smell is appealing, but I wouldn't want to eat anything so sticky that early in the morning.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

19. Clarence couldn't believe that the hardware store was selling garden rakes for only \$1.99 each when he brought home twenty of them, his wife Marie just shook her head and squeezed them into a garage stuffed full of her husband's other "good buys."

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence

20. Orange juice, toast, and cereal might be a healthy breakfast, but Ricardo always hits the snooze button on his alarm too many times all he can grab is a stale pastry and soda.

A. comma splice

B. fused sentence